

Oh My God 861

Chapter 861: The Red Heart Society

“The Red Heart Society?”

Meng Chao searched his memory bank.

He could not find the name.

“That’s right. It’s the Red Heart Society.”

Lu Fanghui continued, “If most of the gangs that were born during the apocalypse were more or less stained with blood because of the cruel reality, then the Red Heart Society would simply be the weirdo that never got stained by mud.

“It was an organization of true idealists. Most of the Red Heart Society’s members rebelled against the law of the jungle and the depravity during the apocalypse. They believed that the darker the world was, the more we should inspire the brilliance of humanity so that we could uphold the ideals of civilization.

“At that time, many members of the gangs were a bunch of lawless thugs, bullies, and selfish scoundrels. The members of the Red Heart Society, on the other hand, were nothing but ‘saints’ and ‘virgins.’

“They lived like ascetics. They did not pursue personal enjoyment and strength. Instead, they made helping the ordinary people their highest purpose and greatest pleasure.

“After the victory over the Blood Alliance and the generous inheritance, the Red Heart Society did not devote too many resources to their own cultivation. Instead, they devoted them to every ordinary citizen in the area under their control without discrimination.

“While the other gangs fought for resources in the open and in the dark, and the broken buildings grew even more dilapidated, the Red Heart Society worked hard to rebuild their home. They cleaned up the ruins, repaired the houses, and arranged a small, but clean and solid residence for the displaced citizens.

“A former hero like my father, Lu Zhongqi, plundered a lot of resources and devoted himself to his own cultivation, growing stronger and stronger at an unbelievable speed and becoming more inhuman. Meanwhile, the Red Heart Society used precious resources to treat children who still had more than ten years to grow up and the elderly who were about to die in three to five years.

“When the citizens in the areas controlled by the other gangs shivered in the cold wind because they were naked, swallowed soil because they did not have enough food to eat, and wailed in the night because of a lack of medicine, long-lost songs and laughter echoed in the areas controlled by the Red Heart Society.

“Such a place was undoubtedly the only pure land in the bloody apocalypse.

“My friends and I were all high-level disciples of the righteous sects. However, we were all disappointed and even resentful of our parents who gradually turned into evil dragons. We transferred the admiration that surged like the Red Dragon River from our parents to the president of the Red Heart Society.

“We regarded the Red Heart Society as a holy land that could realize our dreams.

“One day, we couldn’t stand our parents’ rebellious behavior any longer. We all betrayed our families and joined the Red Heart Society together.

“The Red Heart Society did not create any obstacles for us because of our identity. Instead, it welcomed all the people who fought for Dragon City, and we built a better tomorrow together.

“We became ordinary members of the Red Heart Society.

“We lived like ascetics and saints.

“Together with thousands of ordinary citizens, we cleaned up the ruins, excavated the caves, opened underground farms, and guided the spirit energy in the underground veins to pour into the underground farms. In the absence of sunlight, the crops grew well.

“We built brand-new high-rise buildings to shelter the citizens from the wind and rain. We also trained in clean schools and well-equipped hospitals. The most talented brains among us were all used to think about how to treat diseases and repair the disabilities of the ordinary citizens with crystals and runes. It was so that they would not have to endure excruciating pain day and night.

“Now that I think about it, those days were really hard. In order to help the citizens, we worked hard and could only sleep for two to three hours on average every day. Everyone carried an embroidery needle with them to prick their thighs to keep themselves awake.

“There was no food. All the canned food and compressed military rations brought by the old world had to be eaten first by the sick, the elderly, the weak, the women, and the children. We could only eat sweet potatoes that were grown underground in the Other World. At that time, we had not mastered the secret of planting in the Other World. The sweet potatoes that we grew were hard and bitter. No matter how hard we cooked them, they were like stones that could not be boiled. If we bit them too hard, our teeth would break.

“Many of our brothers and sisters remained in their original families. They relied on the strength of the gangs to enjoy luxurious clothes and food. They squandered astronomical cultivation resources and became stronger than us.

“Those who had a strained relationship with us came to see us as a joke, and they mocked and ridiculed us.

“Those who had a good relationship with us earnestly advised us to go back, lower our heads and admit our mistakes to our parents, and stop this ridiculous farce.

“But they had no idea that, although our bodies were suffering, our spirits were happier than ever before.

“Seeing the dozens of communities under the Red Heart Society’s control get better and better day by day under our hard work, the citizens who were tortured to the brink of death by the apocalypse gradually recovered their vigor and laughter. The joy that came from the bottom of my heart was something that I had never experienced anywhere else in my life.

“Although life was so hard, some of the girls among us still took time off and planted flowers in the broken buildings in the past. As time passed, they gathered into a sea of flowers.

“Meng Chao, I promise you that it was the most beautiful sea of flowers that I have ever seen in my life.

“My days in the Red Heart Society were also the happiest, most sincere, and cleanest days of my life!”

It was not that Meng Chao did not believe Lu Fanghui’s guarantee.

He was confused by what he heard.

The man next to him was driving a luxury car and tasting famous wine. Conservatively speaking, he was wearing at least a dozen weapons and armor made of top-quality materials. Even the seats were made of the most precious soft leather from Apocalyptic Beasts. Which leadership among the ‘big nine’ will most likely take over Sky Pillar Corporation?

“What happened next?” Meng Chao could not help but ask.

The second half of his question was—was it not idealism? Was it not hot-blooded? Was it not very happy, sincere, and clean? Was he not determined to break up with his parents?

Why did he return?

“Later, the Red Heart Society grew larger and larger. After all, the ordinary citizens were neither blind nor stupid. Everyone could see how prosperous and beautiful the ten or so communities under our banner were. The citizens there who were full of food and drinks, and the citizens who lived in the areas under the control of the so-called ‘respectable sects,’ formed a sharp contrast

Lu Fanghui said, “Therefore, more and more citizens escaped the control of the ‘righteous sects’ and moved to the Red Heart Society’s territory.

“The whole community even announced that they would join the Red Heart Society, including people and land.

“The Red Heart Society did not refuse anyone who came and treated them equally.

“Everyone in the gang was selfless and worked overtime. They swore that no matter how hard they worked, they would make sure that all the people in the city could live a secure, dignified, and hopeful life.

“Just like that, the Red Heart Society became one of the most influential gangs in Dragon City in a very short time.

“At its peak, it was said that even Battle God Lei Zongchao wanted to join us.

“At that time, Lei Zongchao was already recognized as the number one expert in Dragon City and the greatest contributor to the victory over the Blood Alliance. Everyone admired his character and respected his strength.

“If Lei Zongchao joined the Red Heart Society, the unification of Dragon City by the Red Heart Society would be just around the corner.

“I’m not afraid that you will laugh at us. At that time, we were not worried about other issues, but that the nine major gangs would interfere and stop the Red Heart Society from unifying Dragon City.

“We, the high-level disciples who betrayed the nine major gangs, gathered together and discussed for a long time. Everybody agreed that if our parents really wanted to stop the Red Heart Society for their own selfish reasons, we would definitely stand on the side of ideals, justice, and light. We would wage a war with our parents and fight to the death!”

Recalling the days when his passion was burning, Lu Fanghui could not help but laugh.

But soon, as the wine that was as red as blood rippled in his glass, his smile turned sarcastic.

“Then... the monsters came.

“The monsters were a terrifying threat that we had never seen before.

“In the past, our enemies were mainly zombies and evil extraordinary humans.

“Other than their ugly appearance and the ability to spread viruses, zombies do not have much combat ability. As long as they wear thick protective gear and carry out epidemic prevention work, ordinary citizens can kill three to five zombies at once.

“Of course, evil superhumans are scarier than zombies, but they are human beings after all. They have brains and can communicate. To a certain extent, they can be traded and compromised. If they can take excessive profits easily under the rules of the game, who would be willing to take over the mountain and lick their own blood?

“But the monsters are as ugly as zombies. They are hungry, crazy, and as powerful as evil superhumans.

“The overwhelming beast horde has descended upon the entire Dragon City, every gang, and every community.

“Of course, we will fight back.

“At the beginning, the monsters that appeared were all ordinary monsters. At most, they were led by the Nightmarish Beasts.

“By relying on the unity of everyone and going forward one after another without fear of sacrifice, we can still win with great difficulty.

“Although we paid an extremely tragic price, and many of our brothers and sisters who spent their days together fell on the battlefield, we still thought that the monsters were only so-so. We were completely capable of protecting the citizens. All the sacrifices were worth it.

“But..

“The Hell Beasts and Apocalyptic Beasts have appeared one after another.

“Meng Chao, do you know what ‘despair’ is?”

When Lu Fanghui said that, the red wine in his glass was trembling slightly.

After so many years, the monster civilization had suffered a crushing defeat.

However, he was still deeply shocked by the sight of the Apocalyptic Beasts for the first time and could not extricate himself.

“The so-called despair is when the Apocalyptic Beasts are roaring in the clouds, but you feel that they are blowing the horn of death in your ear.”

“Despair is when the skyscrapers that you and your companions have built with great difficulty collapse like poorly designed blocks after being pushed by the Apocalyptic Beast.

“Despair is when the ordinary citizens that you have devoted all your efforts to save and think that you can protect them for the rest of their lives are trampled on by the Apocalyptic Beast and turned into minced meat. But you are frozen into an ice sculpture by fear and can’t do anything.

“Despair is when the strongest person among you, the combat maniac whom you admire the most, has killed thousands of zombies. The guy whom you thought you would never be able to catch up with in your life, explodes 300% of his combat strength and lunges at the Apocalyptic Beasts with a roar. However, he is sneezed by the apocalyptic beasts, so much so that not even his bones are left

“Watching the Apocalyptic Beasts wreak havoc in our home, razing the communities that we had rebuilt with all our might to the ground.

“Watching the most beautiful girl among us, the sea of flowers that she planted, turn into a raging sea of fire, and this girl, right in the middle of the sea of fire, turn into a black skeleton.

“I finally realized something.

“We... are too weak.

“Yes, we have a firm will, a lofty spirit, a shining humanity, and a determination to die. Millions of citizens are standing on our side, fighting side by side with us, and fighting against the Apocalyptic Beasts together.

“So What?

“If you can’t win, you can’t win. Fighting ability will not be improved by a single cent just because you stand on the side of ‘justice’ and ‘the public!’

“My companions and I, all the high-level disciples who betrayed the nine major gangs, finally realized painfully that we had wasted too much time and resources on the ordinary citizens in the past long period of time. We were rebuilding our beautiful home, in the cheers, laughter, and praises.

“We were too eager to be recognized and praised by the citizens. We were too eager to uphold the so-called morality and humanity. We were too addicted to the cheap sense of justice and the overflowing sympathy, but we neglected the most important thing in the cruel apocalypse—power.”

Chapter 862: Father’s Choice

Lu Fanghui remained silent for a long time when he said that.

For a few seconds, he seemed to turn into a statue and did not move at all.

However, intense ripples appeared on the surface of the red wine in his hand.

It was as if a mini storm had been conjured, indicating that his heart was not calm at all.

“Power, or rather, cultivation level, is a very objective thing. It requires a lot of time, energy, and cultivation resources to build and maintain.”

“When we waste a lot of time to help the ordinary citizens repair their houses, rebuild their homes, and grow crops, we naturally don’t have the time to improve our combat ability.

“When we get a lot of crystals, we don’t refine them into gene drugs for our own consumption to stimulate the growth of our cells and break through the limits of our lives. Instead, we spend our precious resources on the elderly, the weak, the women, and the children.. Other than their heartfelt gratitude and laughter, of course, we get nothing.

“In the past, we did not realize this.

“When our parents, brothers, and sisters who stayed in the nine major gangs seized every opportunity to plunder resources and cultivate crazily to become stronger and stronger, we ‘idealists’, who thought that we were great, were actually cold signal birds in a different form. We were smug about the ‘kindness’ on the surface and the ‘justice’ that was obsessed with the details, but we did not realize that the fatal winter was quietly approaching.

“Now, we have to pay the price for our stupidity.

“The members of the Red Heart Society are all tough men. Faced with a monster ten times stronger than them, none of them retreated, let alone ran away. They did not even frown. Everybody rushed forward without any hesitation.

“So what? Even if they stuck their eyebrows with glue, they could not escape the fate of being torn into pieces by the monster, swallowed, and turned into excrement.

“Many people died, including the president of the Red Heart Society.

“I remember that the president had a magnificent beard. His eyes were the size of bronze bells and were full of vigor. He looked quite ferocious and did not let anyone get close to him.

“However, he was actually a very gentle and humorous man. All the children in the district liked him. They often climbed onto his shoulders and rode him like a horse. However, he did not care at all. Instead, he cooperated with the children by running, jumping, and sprinting to a stop. The children were so scared that they burst into laughter.

“This idiot...”

“When the leaders of the other gangs were fighting for resources and cultivating crazily until they reached six-star, seven-star, or even Deity Realm, he wasted too much time on patrolling the administrative area, playing with the children, and caring for the elderly. Now that the Apocalyptic Beast is here, who will die if he doesn’t die?

“The gap between the two parties is too big.

“The Apocalyptic Beast did not target him. It did not even notice him. With just a simple kick, half of his body and half of his head were crushed into meat paste.

“He was lying in the footprints of the Apocalyptic Beast. His broken limbs and blood-stained mud were mixed together. He could only stare at the other half of his head with his remaining eye. He could only watch helplessly as his jurisdiction and the children who were laughing like silver bells on his neck were engulfed by the flames of destruction.

“I saw that his eyeballs were bulging out, and tears of blood were spurting out of his hollow eye sockets.

“I thought that he must have regretted it too much at the last moment.

“It was a pity that regret, like kindness, was the most useless thing in the cruel apocalypse.

“At this moment, Lei Zongchao arrived.

“As the best expert in Dragon City, Battle God Lei Zongchao, who was at his peak, boasted unparalleled power that could destroy the world. He was the guardian god in the hearts of many citizens.

“Seeing that the Red Heart Society was destroyed and dozens of communities were caught in a sea of fire, Lei Zongchao was furious. He activated his overwhelming spirit energy and heavily wounded an Apocalyptic Beast during the first clash.

“However, there were simply too many Apocalyptic Beasts and other monsters attacking Dragon City.

“No matter how strong Lei Zongchao was, he was no match for four hands.

“Besides, the enemy was far more than ‘four hands.’ He might have eight claws, more than ten tails, and hundreds of tusks.

“Lei Zongchao was soon besieged by three Apocalyptic Beasts and dozens of Hell Beasts. He could not get away for a moment.

“The rest of the monsters accelerated and ravaged our home into a mess.

“The sound of burning flames, the sound of collapsing buildings, the screams of the soldiers, and the helpless cries of the children made Lei Zongchao very upset. He gradually fell into a disadvantageous position.

“Yes. Lei Zongchao and President Chi Xin were both good people, but the greatest weakness of good people was that they were soft-hearted. In a battle, this weakness was fatal.

“Even Lei Zongchao’s armor was soaked in blood. His skin, which was exposed to the air, had been torn apart. There was not a single piece of flesh left.

“It seems that he, who never retreated, might have been killed by the surging beast horde.

“Lei Zongchao’s fall means that the entire defense line will collapse. There is no other possibility except for the destruction of humiliation that awaits us.

“My companions and I are all prepared to die.

“However, looking at each other in dismay, we read more from each other’s eyes. We suddenly realized that what drives us to face death with ease is not courage and justice, but shame and regret.

“We regret that we did not listen to the teachings of our fathers and followed them on the path of becoming stronger by any means necessary. We regret that we spent too much time and resources on meaningless things, which resulted in our own deaths, as well as the deaths of countless citizens who trusted us very much and placed all their hopes on us.

“We did not have the strength to become heroes, but we insisted on pretending to be heroes. When the crisis really came, we could not bear any responsibility. How could we still have the face to run back to our hometown? We could only use death to wash away our sins and escape punishment.

“My companions and I all closed our eyes. We didn’t want to see each other’s ashamed expressions anymore. We just wanted to rush toward the Apocalyptic Beasts and end everything in the raging flames of the beasts.

“Right at this moment, we heard a sonic boom.

“More than ten sonic booms tore through the sky and shook the earth. Like thousands of soldiers and horses, they swept over from the sky.

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“After our eyes were blown open by the sonic booms, we were very surprised to find that the ones who came at lightning speed like cruise missiles were none other than our parents.

“They were none other than our greedy, selfish, and cold-hearted parents who had taken everything by force.

“They were none other than our parents who, in order to defeat the Blood Alliance, pretended to be righteous, raised the banner of ‘justice’ and ‘fairness’, and made countless promises to the members and citizens. However, after they defeated the Blood Alliance, they could not wait to divide the Blood Alliance’s inheritance and devote all the resources to their own cultivation.

“It was none other than... the dragon-slaying warriors who have turned into evil dragons.

“The leader was my father, Lu Zhongqi.

“Surging spirit flames surrounded his body. Spirit energy condensed into a blast wave that crazily bombarded the air around him, making deafening noises. It sounded like waves crashing on the shore, but also like rolling thunder.

“His imposing manner was no weaker than that of Battle God Lei Zongchao.

“I couldn’t believe my eyes. My father had made such an amazing breakthrough and advanced to the deity level in only a year and a half!

“Looking at my father’s emotionless face, which was still as cold as an ax, I suddenly remembered something from the past.

“Not long after I joined the Red Heart Society, there was a six or seven-year-old girl in the territory. Because she was infected with a very special flesh-eating bacteria from another world, her internal organs were all gnawed until they were full of holes. She was on the verge of death.

“I remember that it was an extremely beautiful girl. Her voice was as pleasant as a lark’s. Before her illness, her singing was the best solace for the members of the Red Heart Society who had worked hard for a day.

“Everyone called her ‘Little Lark.’ All the members of the Red Heart Society liked her very much. We, the high-level disciples who had betrayed the nine major gangs, even more so. We all regarded Little Lark as the best symbol of humanity. In the dark and bloody apocalypse, she was the most worthy thing to protect.

“Therefore, when we learned that Little Lark was infected with the flesh-eating bacteria from another world, we were all very anxious and tried to cure her illness.

“It was a pity that the Red Heart Society lacked medicine. Our exploration of the bacteria and spirit energy from another world had just begun. The doctors could not do anything even after a long time. They only said that they could only create miracles if they found a piece of Blue Origin Crystal and stimulated Little Lark’s own vitality. Otherwise, the cute little girl could only rot to death from the inside out.

“I know that my father happened to have a piece of the Blue Origin Crystal!

“When I betrayed my family, I swore that I would never return to the Lu family unless Dragon City became a paradise where everyone was equal, peaceful, and prosperous.

“But for the sake of Little Lark, I went back on my word. When I returned to the Lu family, I knelt down heavily to my father under the taunting, mocking, caring, and disappointed gazes of my brothers and sisters, begging him to give—no, lend me a tiny bit of the Blue Origin Crystal.

“I know how precious the Origin Crystal is, but no matter how precious it is, can it be more precious than a human life? Besides, I don’t need much. I just need a tiny bit, a tiny bit smaller than a fingernail!

“Just as you thought, my father rejected me without hesitation.

“He said that he needed the Origin Crystal to repair his damaged organs and bloodlines, shorten the cooling down time between two crazy training sessions, and accelerate his leveling up.

“Even a tiny bit of the Blue Origin Crystal, which was smaller than a fingernail, could delay his upgrade speed for days, hours, and minutes.

“But he couldn’t wait for even a few seconds.

“I was shocked by my father’s reason.

“Before I went back, I thought that he might refuse.

“But I didn’t expect that he would reject me with such a reason.

“For the sake of a lively human life, I slowed down my cultivation a little and wasted a few days at most. I don’t understand how cold and heartless I have to be to reject such an exchange!

“One day, you will understand

“Father only told me these three words before he chased me out of the house and continued to focus on his cultivation.

“He didn’t even bother to fly into a rage because of my betrayal. It was as if the unruliness of his own son was nothing compared to his cultivation.

“Of course, I didn’t understand at that time, and I thought that I would never understand.

“Especially when Bai Ling finally died in extreme pain in front of me because she couldn’t find the Blue Origin Crystal, and when her melodious singing turned into the most mournful screams, I was even more furious and heartbroken.

“At that time, in my eyes, my father had become as terrifying as the leader of the Blood Alliance in the past. They were all devils who would do anything to achieve their goals, be selfish, and disregard human lives!

“Until now...

“My father, who had broken through to the Deity Realm, and the other leaders of the nine major gangs who were selfish, unscrupulous, plundered resources, and trained crazily to break through to the Deity Realm together, descended from the sky and fought the Apocalyptic Beasts. They saved Battle God Lei Zongchao, as well as the community, which was about to be destroyed, and the thousands of survivors.

“I just in a flash, understood father’s choice that day!”

Chapter 863: Survival Is Everything

Outside the SUV, the torrential rain was still pouring and thunder was rolling.

The interior of the SUV was soundproof, and it had the highest defense. There was no sound of rain or thunder inside, only Lu Fanghui’s hoarse voice that was filled with endless regret.

“Father and the other eight gang leaders fought off all the Apocalyptic Beasts, and the number of superbeasts they killed number in the three digits. They also killed countless monsters and saved Lei Zongchao as well as everyone else.”

“It was a pity that too many members of the Red Heart Society were killed in the battle. Even the bearded guild leader was sacrificed. More than eighty percent of the houses in the territory collapsed too. Countless people were killed or wounded.

“More importantly, the Red Heart Society’s modus operandi had been proven in practice to be unsuitable for the new war of monsters. It would only kill everybody.

“The Red Heart Society, which was once prosperous, fell apart and vanished without a trace.

“As the survivors, no matter how ashamed we were to see our fathers, we could only return to our original families and gangs.

“I returned to Sky Pillar’s territory.

“I was surprised to find that, although they were also attacked by the monster horde, most of the residents there were still alive!

“Yes, they did not seem to be rich. After defeating the Blood Alliance, my father reformed Sky Pillar’s system and established a cruel competition system to distribute resources. Only the strong were qualified to get more resources, and the weak could only live on with no dignity.

“But it was precisely because of this system that the strong continued to grow in strength. That was why they could stand up when the beast horde attacked, and they defeated the monsters’ wild offensive. It was to ensure that the weak could continue to live on with their lives.

“Yes, in order to compete for the Blood Alliance’s heritage and precious resources, Sky Pillar and the other gangs engaged in fierce competition. They fought each other and tore each other apart. They did not have a sense of the big picture and solidarity at all.

“However, the fierce competition among the gangs stimulated the major gangs. They built a large number of underground fortresses and war fortresses in their respective areas. They also racked their brains to organize everyone in their areas of jurisdiction for military training so that they could be trained into cold, merciless killing machines.

“The area under the Red Heart Society’s jurisdiction had been filled with cheers and laughter, and we had thought about how to expand the living space of the citizens and improve their comfort. In contrast, the areas under the jurisdiction of Sky Pillar and the other gangs were filled with fortresses.

“Yes, the higher-ups of the gangs had to be busy with training and building fortresses, while other heavy physical work had to be borne by the ordinary citizens. In the absence of sufficient crystals and food, the high-intensity military training was also rapidly draining the lives of the lower-level gangs and ordinary citizens.

“Many ordinary citizens in the area under Sky Pillar’s jurisdiction had to carry out heavy earthwork during the day. They suffocated from the pressure of the reinforced concrete, and they did not have sufficient safety guarantees. The slightest carelessness would lead to accidents, turning them into piles of bones among the broken walls.

“At night, they have to carry out military training again. Many of the training subjects have been copied from the Blood Alliance. They are eager for quick success and quick profits, which is not scientific at all. It is simply a ‘seven-wound fist’ that hurts others and hurts oneself.

“Many people were so tired that they vomited blood and died. Some died in construction accidents and training accidents.

“During that period of time, the death rate of the citizens in the districts under the jurisdiction of the nine major gangs was more than 10% higher than that of the districts under the Red Heart Society’s jurisdiction.

“This is also the reason why many citizens who could not endure the torture snuck into the districts under the Red Heart Society’s jurisdiction.

“After discovering that a large number of people had fled from the districts under their jurisdiction, the nine major gangs did not think about how to improve the lives of the people and adjust the training subjects. Instead, they used even crueler methods to control and exploit the citizens. Many of the methods also came from the Blood Alliance.

“During the peaceful period when the Blood Alliance was defeated and the monsters had yet to appear, my companions and I were indignant. We thought that our parents, the higher-ups of the nine major gangs, were too cruel to the lower-level gangs and ordinary citizens. They simply treated them as slaves...

“And the area under the Red Heart Society’s jurisdiction was a peaceful paradise. It was a paradise that everyone yearned for.

“However, when the monsters attacked, the districts under the jurisdiction of the nine major gangs were more likely to survive under the claws of the monsters than the districts under the jurisdiction of the nine major gangs. The ordinary people in the districts under the Red Heart Society’s jurisdiction were too well-protected by us. As a result, they lost their combat ability and their ability to respond to crises.

“In the end, more than 70% of the population of the districts under the jurisdiction of the nine major gangs survived the first wave of the civilization of monsters.

“However, less than 10% of the survivors of the former Red Heart Society survived!

“Also, living in the territories of the nine major gangs, the citizens had to undergo arduous work and harsh training. They often had to participate in bloody conflicts. They were willing to fight to the death even for the rotten canned food.

“The cruel struggles gradually hardened their will and made them completely accept the rules of the game in the apocalypse.

“It was not a big deal even if they encountered monsters. After all, life in the apocalypse was made up of all kinds of suffering. Monsters were just one of the countless suffering.

“Therefore, after the first contact with the monsters, the citizens under the jurisdiction of the nine major gangs were obviously more mentally stable or ‘numb.’

“In the districts of the Red Heart Society, the citizens all believed in the ‘beautiful tomorrow’ that we had described. They did not expect that they would encounter something like ‘monsters,’ which only appeared in nightmares. Many of them suffered heavy damage to their souls. Even if they were lucky enough to survive, their spirits had completely collapsed.

“Such a stark contrast made us deeply reflect on ourselves while feeling ashamed.

“No matter how cruel the rule of the nine major gangs was, they at least stimulated or exploited their greatest potential. They also transformed their limited resources into their strongest combat ability, which allowed most of the people to survive.

“No matter how perfect the governance of the Red Heart Society seemed, it could not withstand the storm that was bound to exist in the Other World.

“In times of crisis, the means of survival are the most important thing in the apocalypse. Everything should be made for ‘living!’

“Other than our deep reflection, the Red Heart Society’s destruction greatly affected Battle God Lei Zongchao.

“As far as I know, Lei Zongchao once seriously considered joining the Red Heart Society and promoting the collaboration between the Red Heart Society and Golden Tooth.

“Lei Zongchao, the Red Heart Society, and “Domineering Saber” Jin Wanhao’s Golden Tooth formed the ‘Iron Triangle’ to fight against the nine major gangs and fight for the leadership of Dragon City in the future!

“However, in the first wave of the monster civilization, even Lei Zongchao himself was saved by the leaders of the nine major gangs.

“Lei Zongchao was, after all, a straightforward man who had a clear distinction between gratitude and hatred. The reason why he wanted to fight for the leadership of Dragon City was not because of his ambition, but because he sincerely believed that the Red Heart Society’s ideology could create a bright future for Dragon City.

“In the end, the weakness of the Red Heart Society was a great blow to him. After learning from the painful experience, he turned to work with the nine major gangs and endorsed them with his powerful military force and high prestige. In the end, he established the Survival Committee.

“I don’t think that Lei Zongchao, such a tough man, made a choice that many people, including Jin Wanhao, could not imagine and approve of, not because his ideology had changed.

“But because he deeply realized that without the support of power, no matter how great, bright, and correct his philosophy was, it would all be empty words.

“Plus, power would not fall from the sky just because of your ‘justice’ or ‘kindness.’ Many times, in order to obtain the power of transcendence and sanctification, we have to give up something... or even many things.

“The so-called ‘dragon-slaying warrior’ is a fairy tale that lies. A warrior can never kill an evil dragon. Only an evil dragon can kill an evil dragon.

“Rather, you can only choose to be a ‘good dragon’ or an ‘evil dragon’ after you devour and evolve into a dominating dragon by any means necessary. If you are just a small lizard, it is meaningless for you to choose between good and evil!”

Btoom!

The goblet in Lu Fanghui’s hand suddenly exploded without any warning.

However, influenced by his spirit energy, the broken goblet remained in its original state. Not a single drop of liquor leaked out of it.

Since the walls of the goblet were covered with complicated cracks that looked like ice crystals, it appeared more translucent and mysterious.

Lu Fanghui took a deep breath and shook the broken goblet gently. Watching the liquor flow down the cracks like streams of blood, he gradually calmed down.

“Meng Chao, looking at you today is like looking at myself from yesterday. I was once young and frivolous, so I know exactly what you’re thinking.”

Lu Fanghui calmly said, "I know that you have a prejudice against the nine mega corporations. It's normal for someone like you, who's come from a humble family and worked hard to get to where you are today, to have some opinions about the sons of the wealthy families. They seemed to have had everything since birth.

"The nine mega corporations are not charity organizations that specialize in benefiting others. Of course, the rules of the game that are enforced by the nine mega corporations are not perfect either. Therefore, it's understandable that you want to change the current situation and create a more fair set of rules. It should also be supported. Any young man in his early twenties who is full of vigor and vitality would have no conscience if he didn't think like you!

"However, before you hastily use your own will to transform this world, you must first have power.

"Without power, you and your ideas are just a joke.

"Yes, in the past two years, you have risen miraculously and gained all the limelight. You have climbed all the way to a height that many disciples of noble families can never reach in their lifetime.

"But I'm afraid that even you don't believe that you can control Dragon City's future with your current power.

"Besides, you have shown your sharpness and already stood in the eye of the storm.

"You must obtain even greater strength.

"Otherwise, you will be crushed by a more monumental strength.

"Now, there is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for you to rise to the top, soar to the sky, and... get the strength you want!"

Lu Fanghui once again pushed the Heavenly Dragon Club's membership card to him.

Chapter 864: The Weakness of Dinosaurs

Perhaps because his surging vitality magnetic field had not completely calmed down yet, so it interfered with the card that had compressed dozens of crystals to the limit until they were as thin as a cicada's wings. Nanoscale spirit circuits were carved on the card and glued together layer by layer.

The Heavenly Dragon Club's membership card was dazzling and colorful. It was dozens of layers thick, and its extremely complicated spirit tattoos seemed to have protruding layers of golden scales.

A majestic five-clawed golden dragon, which was crouching at the center of the card, looked like it was soaring into the sky and rushing toward Meng Chao.

Meng Chao narrowed his eyes subconsciously.

When he signed the collaboration agreement with the Red Dragon Army on Superstar Resource's behalf, he had thought that the nine mega corporations would most likely offer a higher price to win him over.

He had long decided that he would never waver if the "price" was only a larger order, more cultivation resources, fame, wealth, and so on.

After all, in his previous life, fame, wealth, and even the power to destroy the world had all been burned away along with the flames of the apocalypse.

However, he did not expect Lu Fanghui to tell such a story.

Of course, the story could not be 100% true.

After all, Lu Fanghui's description was different from Long Feijun's, Lei Zongchao's, and Jin Wanhao's.

However, Meng Chao did not think that Lu Fanghui would fabricate such a story to deceive him.

It was because Lu Fanghui knew about his relationship with Lei Zongchao very well.

He could ask Lei Zongchao for confirmation on the authenticity of the story about the Red Heart Society's destruction.

It was impossible for the person involved to lie about Lei Zongchao almost dying and being saved by the leaders of the nine major gangs.

The story made Meng Chao hesitate.

In his previous life, he had originally been a member of the Ghost Tribe, the nine major corporations' elite armed force.

In a sense, his fighting philosophy—at least 50% of his fighting philosophy—would be shaped by the nine major corporations in the future.

Therefore, he partially agreed with Lu Fanghui's viewpoint.

In the Other World, in the apocalypse, and in this cruel era, belief without power was meaningless.

However...

“Dragon City doesn't only have the power of the nine mega corporations.”

Meng Chao moved his eyes away from the Heavenly Dragon Club's glittering membership card and tried to speak as calmly as possible.

“Who else is there besides the nine mega corporations?”

Lu Fanghui snorted. “The four research institutes, the alliance of five universities, and Dragon City University? These organizations and institutions all rely on the Survival Committee's funding to maintain the most basic operations. Meanwhile, the Survival Committee's finances depend on us, the nine mega corporations, to support it.

“Every budget season, in order to compete for research funding and resources, those experts, scholars, and senior researchers beat the sh*t out of each other. The scene is simply more terrifying than monsters fighting for water.

“Meng Chao, you've also experienced the predicament of researching and developing the Ultimate Style. Are you sure you want to waste your precious life on running connections, soliciting sponsors, looking for resources, and competing for budgets?”

“Who else? Small and medium-sized enterprises, various industry associations, and organizations that are under the Supernatural Tower’s name? They may appear to be high-end and magnanimous but are in fact just a bunch of random organizations? “If you want money, you have no money. If you want people, you have no people. In terms of cultivation resources and technological reserves, they are even worse than the universities and research institutes. How can they help you soar and put your ideals into practice?”

“There’s also the Red Dragon Army,” said Meng Chao.

“Heh, the Red Dragon Army!” Lu Fanghui looked at him with disdain.

“Director Lu, don’t you think that the Red Dragon Army has the power to protect Dragon City?” Meng Chao frowned and subconsciously changed the subject.

“That’s right.”

Lu Fanghui showed no mercy. “Don’t get me wrong, I’m not looking down on the Red Dragon Army. On the contrary, I admire the Red Dragon Army’s courage and fearlessness. They are brave enough to sacrifice themselves. I think that the Red Dragon Army has a heart of gold. Every time I see the Red Dragon Army, even if it’s just a small soldier in a new company, I feel like I seeing a former Red Heart member. They are very pure and endearing people.

“Dragon City cannot do without the Red Dragon Army. Their spirit can inspire our civilization to ride the wind and break the waves, advancing at great speed.

“However, it is also a fact that the Red Dragon Army’s combat ability is too weak.

“During the Monster War in the past decades, the Red Dragon Army has only been able to deal with beast hordes led by Nightmarish Beasts at most. Once the Hell Beasts appear in the enemy camp, the Red Dragon Army would have to pay an extremely tragic price. If Apocalyptic Beasts appear, no matter how many Red Dragon Army troops there are, no matter how courageous they are, they would only be sending themselves to their deaths if they charge forward.

“Putting everything else aside, during the final battle in the Hidden Mist Domain, the Red Dragon Army seemingly mobilized an army of a million soldiers. Thousands of heavy cannons were bombarding the forest nonstop. From night to day, almost one-tenth of the forest was flattened.

“So What? In the final battle with the monster mastermind, the Deity Realm fighters would be the final decision?

“Of all the Deity Realm fighters, more than half of them were from the ‘big nine,’ and only a small part of them were from the Red Dragon Army, universities, research institutes, and other organizations. Isn’t that enough to explain the problem?

“It’s because the Red Dragon Army has not received enough resources.”

Meng Chao said, “If Dragon City gives more resources to the Red Dragon Army, the Red Dragon Army will certainly become stronger

“Nonsense. As long as there are enough training resources, even a pig can be turned into a superbeast. But it’s meaningless!”

Lu Fanghui said, “The Red Dragon Army has a fatal problem that cannot be solved at all. It is too large and has too many people.

“The more people there are, the fewer training resources that can be allocated to each person. It means that the average combat ability among Red Dragon Army troops will be maintained at one level for a long time.

“On the very low level, it means that the Red Dragon Army will have to rely on powerful firepower, sophisticated war machines, and more numbers to make up for the lack of combat ability.

“However, Meng Chao, have you ever considered that this is actually a vicious circle?

“The so-called ‘powerful firepower,’ on the other hand, means that countless ammunition will be consumed, and a heavy burden will be placed on the logistics. Once the ammunition and food run out, the Red Dragon Army’s combat ability will be reduced by 90% or even 100%!

“The so-called ‘complicated and sophisticated war machinery’ implies that the failure rate will be high and that they will be easy to damage and disrupt. It means that daily maintenance and maintenance are required. Maintenance and maintenance require a large team, which is a waste of resources.

“More numbers means more complicated command and feedback networks. It means that the distance between the ‘brain’ and the ‘nerve endings’ of the Red Dragon Army is getting longer and higher, and the command efficiency is getting lower and lower. If the ‘brain’ or the ‘nerve endings’ are destroyed, the consequences will be unimaginable.

“To put it simply, the ‘dragons’ in the Red Dragon Army are not true dragons that soar above the nine heavens. They are dinosaurs that are well-developed, simple-minded, clumsy, and consume a large amount of food. They are creatures that should have been eliminated a long time ago.

“In the Monster War, the Red Dragon Army did not reveal their fatal flaws.

“On one hand, it’s because the Red Dragon Army was not the main force to fight against the monster civilization. The nine mega corporations and Deity Realm powerhouses were the main forces. The Red Dragon Army was just a support force.

“On the other hand, the Monster War was a battle to protect our homeland. It was an internal battle. From south to north, from east to west, our logistics supply line was at most a few hundred kilometers long. There was basically not much pressure on our logistics supply.

“Moreover, although the monsters were terrifying, they basically followed the rule of ‘the stronger the monster, the bigger the monster.’ The most powerful Apocalyptic Beasts are mostly the dinosaurs that I mentioned just now. They are clumsy and consume too much energy. They are destined to be eliminated.

“It is precisely because this was a ‘dinosaur-to-dinosaur’ defense battle that the Red Dragon Army could exploit their strengths and avoid their weaknesses.

“However, we will not be so lucky forever.

“Next, we will march into the depths of the Other World. We will change from fighting on the inside to fighting on the outside or even going on an expedition alone. In such an expedition, the issue of logistical supplies will be magnified by ten times or even a hundred times!

“Besides, we don’t know what kind of enemy we will encounter. Will it be a monster that has developed limbs and is simple-minded, or will it be smarter, more insidious, and crueler?

“If the next enemy does not only have amazing combat ability but also stealth ability, and they can even infiltrate us with false appearances, are you sure that the Red Dragon Army will be able to resist the enemy’s unscrupulous attacks?

“The enemy does not need to confront the Red Dragon Army’s torrent of steel head-on.

“Assassinate the Red Dragon Army’s basic commanders, cut off the communication system between the frontline and the rear, and paralyze the Red Dragon Army ‘neural network!’

“Launch a suicide attack on the armory that has accumulated a lot of provisions and ammunition, leaving the Red Dragon Army in a dilemma of running out of ammunition and food.

“Sabotage the road and divide millions, if not tens of millions, of the Red Dragon Army troops into helpless beasts.

“Sneak into the barracks and launch mental attacks on the ordinary soldiers who are sleeping in the dead of night, triggering terrifying ‘camp roars’ with the resonance of their fear-induced brain waves.

“What’s more extreme is to clear the land and poison the farmland and wells. All the intelligent creatures will be withdrawn and all the creatures that can be used as military rations will be exterminated, leaving only a barren land for the Red Dragon Army.

“Do you think that such ‘super battles’ are all nightmares that are impossible to come true?

“If such nightmares really come true, it will be impossible for the Red Dragon Army to break free from the nightmares!

“Don’t let your emotions get the best of you. If you think about it carefully, you will agree that I am right.

“In this Other World with extraordinary strength, a large-scale army with average qualities can only be used for defense.

“Plus, it is absolutely impossible to win the war to conquer the Other World by purely relying on defense. If you want to obtain the final victory, you can only attack, attack, and attack continuously!

“And who is the main force of the attack? It is the experts! It is the fighters like you and me!

“Therefore, if the resources are not tilted to the fighters like you and me or the ‘big nine’ groups of experts, they are going to fill the Red Dragon Army’s bottomless pit. It is not only a big joke but also destructive for Dragon City!”

Chapter 865: The Fortress Must Be Broken Through From the Inside

Meng Chao had seen these questions with his own eyes in his previous life. He had racked his brains in this life, but he still could not find the answers.

He had to admit that Lu Fanghui, the chief executive officer of the largest mining group in Dragon City, had a vision that was somewhat ahead of the times.

He had actually foreseen the future hidden dangers in Dragon City right after their victory in the Monster War and the seemingly good situation today.

Nevertheless, Meng Chao still caught the loophole in Lu Fanghui's logic.

"The Red Dragon Army can train its own experts too."

Meng Chao said, "The Red Dragon Army has Battle Soul Technology and Heroic Spirit Technology. As long as they receive sufficient training resources, there will be ten times more experts than there are today."

"Both Battle Soul Technology and Heroic Spirit Technology have their own shortcomings.. The former requires the concerted efforts of hundreds and thousands of soldiers in order to trigger brainwave resonance and ensure the production and stability of the Battle Soul."

Lu Fanghui said, "The training, summoning, mobility and logistical support of hundreds and thousands of soldiers are certainly not as flexible and efficient as that of a single powerhouse. If some of the soldiers are killed or injured by the enemy, which in turn affects the morale of the soldiers, the soul will easily collapse.

"As one of the four major combat occupations in Dragon City, heroic spirit users are certainly very powerful. However, the number of heroic spirit users is limited, and the conditions for their formation are also very harsh. Not just any Tom, Dick, or Harry can be transformed into a heroic spirit after death. Compared with the warriors, monster controllers, and machine masters, which could theoretically be popularized on a large scale, heroic spirit user is destined to be a niche occupation.

"Besides, the Red Dragon Army is too large, which entails a heavy burden. Just the allowance for the disabled soldiers and the compensation for the dead soldiers are astronomical. More than half of the Red Dragon Army's cultivation resources will be consumed in this aspect. After deducting the consumption of the ordinary troops, how many of them will be left for the battle soul unit and the heroic spirit users?"

"Yes, of course, the Red Dragon Army can be ruthless. They will focus all their resources on the battle soul unit and heroic spirit users, and they will produce ten times more powerhouses than today. But in that case, what's the difference between the Red Dragon Army and the nine mega corporations? "Will the problems of the mega corporations today not appear in the Red Dragon Army tomorrow?"

Meng Chao was rendered speechless.

After a long pause, he could only ask, "So, Director Lu, you're also aware that the nine mega corporations today have a lot of problems?"

"Of course." Lu Fanghui smiled.

His aura that was as sharp as a razor suddenly vanished without a trace.

“Obviously, I do. I know the problems and even fatal flaws of the nine mega corporations much better than you do.”

Lu Fanghui was both serious and gentle. “In the past, with the Red Heart Society’s destruction, the high-level disciples of the nine major gangs all returned to their own homes in dejection.

“Deeply stimulated, we seemed to become completely different people. We practiced, plundered, devoured, and evolved a hundred times crazier and crueler than our brothers and sisters. We became stronger by all means and worked our way up!

“Today, many of us have become the best among the second generation of the nine major cultivation families. We have taken over the core departments of the family businesses, and we have... the power to shake the ‘big nine!’”

Meng Chao widened his eyes and exclaimed in shock, “What?”

“Didn’t I say that my days in the Red Heart Society were the happiest and purest days of my life? Everything I saw, felt, and did in the Red Heart Society gradually condensed into a fire in my heart. Although the Red Heart Society has long disappeared, and we, the sons of the influential families, have seemingly been mellowed out by life, the fire in our hearts has not extinguished—and it will never be extinguished.”

Lu Fanghui stared at Meng Chao and sincerely said, “Believe me, Meng Chao, you’re not the only one who wants to save Dragon City. My companions and I have all seen through the problems of the nine mega corporations. We all want to reform the nine mega corporations so that the entire Dragon City will be brand-new.

“But..

“The old man still exists above us, after all.

“Back then, he was a Deity Realm warrior who shook the entire Dragon City. Our fathers’ generation still occupies the supreme throne. The ‘big nine’ are not in the hands of the second generation like us.

“The old man, his brothers, as well as our brothers and sisters who have not been baptized by the spirit of the Red Heart Society, and the interest groups, are all deeply rooted. They are all worms that cannot be rooted out in one go.

“Therefore, we need more ‘new blood’ to join us and reform the nine major cities and change Dragon City together.

“Meng Chao, if you and I are of the same mind, you should join the Heavenly Dragon Club and stand on the side of the nine major cities and their innovators.

“After all, the sturdiest fortresses are always broken from the inside, aren’t they?”

Meng Chao’s previous impression of Lu Fanghui was that of a specialist in crystals and a shrewd businessman.

Compared with his father, the founder of Sky Pillar Corporation, and his daughter, who was known as the Queen Bee, Lu Fanghui did not have such a strong sense of existence. He was more like a person who was sandwiched between Lu Zhongqi and Lu Siya.

It was not until today that Meng Chao felt a burning ambition from Lu Fanghui.

This ambition was not as aggressive as Lu Siya's.

After years of training, it had added some perseverance and strength that could move people's hearts.

Lu Fanghui's words had triggered Meng Chao's endless imagination.

Regardless of whether those words were true or not, almost all the founders of the nine mega corporations had been seriously injured in the decisive battle with the monster mastermind. That was a well-known fact.

After more than half a century of bloodshed and living in the shadow of swords, the once mighty first generation of Deity Realm warriors had gradually gone downhill.

In Meng Chao's memory of his previous life, the first generation of Deity Realm warriors had also been present at the end of the Monster War. Together with Battle God Lei Zongchao, they had fallen one after another.

Although the butterfly effect caused by Meng Chao's rebirth saved their lives...

It was impossible for them to recover their peak strength.

However, it was a sure thing that the mega corporations needed absolute force to endorse them.

The weakness of the founder would definitely cause turmoil within a corporation.

Was it possible to take this opportunity to break through the "fortress" of the "big nine" from the inside?

"I need to think about it carefully."

Meng Chao pondered for a long time and cautiously said, "Director Lu, can you give me some time?"

"Of course."

Lu Fanghui smiled and casually took back the Heavenly Dragon Club membership card. "I will stay in the Hidden Mist Domain for three days to thoroughly investigate the distribution of the spirit veins there. You are a smart person. I believe that before I finish my investigation and return to Sky Pillar Corporation, you will definitely make the right choice."

"Alright, I will give you an answer within three days."

Meng Chao said, "Director Lu, if there's nothing else..."

He had originally wanted to say that if there was nothing else, he would leave first. He even had an appointment!

However, upon careful thought, he realized that he had an appointment with Lu Fanghui's daughter.

Even though he was not asking Lu Fanghui's daughter to do anything shameful, he still felt... strange.

In the middle of the night, in the wilderness, he felt... odd.

"Something's up."

He did not expect Lu Fanghui to say, "We were talking about business just now. Why don't we talk about private matters now?"

"Private matters?"

Meng Chao was slightly dazed.

Why did it feel... more awkward than when Lu Fanghui invited him to join the Heavenly Dragon Club earlier?

"Meng Chao, we're not only allowed to talk about business, are we?"

"Of course."

Lu Fanghui smiled. "Just now, I was talking to you on behalf of Sky Pillar Corporation and the Lu family as 'Director Lu.' But now, I'm just talking to you on behalf of myself as 'Uncle Lu.'"

"No matter what, you are Siya's best friend. You have risked your life for her many times and saved her life without caring about your own safety. As a father, I admire you very much. I hope that you can join the Heavenly Dragon Club and help me.

"Forget it, it seems that I've added to your burden. Let's not talk about the Heavenly Dragon Club anymore. I promise you that even if you really refuse my grandfather's good intentions and... stand in the Heavenly Dragon Club's way, I, Lu, will not make things difficult for you.

"You don't know that Siya is a very special child.

"From the moment she was born, she awakened the her grandfather's bloodline, Spirit Sensor.

"Although her extraordinary talent brought great potential for cultivation, it also made her sense of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and even pain ten times more sensitive than that of ordinary people.

"Don't think that it's a good thing.

"A melodious sonata to ordinary people sounded like thunderous rock music to her.

"A clean and tidy house to ordinary people would be full of filth under her discerning eyes.

"Ordinary people couldn't smell the various smells in the air, such as the smell of blood, smoke, the body odor of monsters, and the stench of burnt corpses. They filled her nose all day long, making her dizzy.

"Her sense of touch and pain, especially, were so developed that even if she slept on the softest velvet, she would feel as if she was being tortured by rolling nails.

"Before her young brain was mature enough to process the enormous amount of information, such torture was repeated every day without end.

“I used to worry that the child wouldn’t live past seven years old.

“Even if she grew up reluctantly, her soul would be twisted, and she would turn into a monster because of the torture.

“However, she was more stubborn and tenacious than I and everyone else in the Lu family had imagined.

“Not only did she overcome the curse of her talent and grow to this day, but she also inherited the power of her grandfather’s bloodline almost perfectly. She became the strongest person among the third generation of the Lu family as a result!

“Watching her stumble all the way to this day, I feel both heartache and gratification. I even blame myself. I’ve always felt that I haven’t been a good father and haven’t taken good care of her.

“Including those who are not qualified to acknowledge their ancestors, I have a total of seventeen or eighteen children, but I’ve only felt such guilt toward Siya. She is truly the child whom I love and value the most.”

Chapter 866: A Three-Win Deal

The more Meng Chao listened, the more he felt that something was wrong.

He felt as if he was sitting on pins and needles.

However, Lu Fanghui’s voice sounded gentler, as though he was a kind father.

“Now, Siya finally has the power that she has always dreamed of, but to obtain it, she has also paid a considerable price, which includes her personality.”

Lu Fanghui paused for a moment and sighed before he continued, “My daughter’s personality really needs some work. She is too sharp and sensitive. As a ‘sensitive’ person, she can see dirt that ordinary people can’t see, but she can also see through the filth in the depths of people’s hearts. Moreover, she often suffers because of these filth.

“In order to avoid being hurt, she chose to arm herself with an aggressive style and an overly proud personality. It’s like putting on a thick, hard, and indestructible armor because her heart is too weak so that she can maintain her combative state at all times.

“A tree in the forest will be destroyed by the wind. Of course, such a personality is of no benefit. Many people in the circle now call her the Queen Bee. That is not a compliment.

“As a father, I am very anxious for my most beloved daughter, but I also know that if she did not use such a sharp personality to cut through all the hardships on her path of growth, she would have been unable to withstand the torture and completely collapsed.

“It was impossible and impossible for me to change my daughter’s personality. I only hoped that I could find someone... who was complementary to my daughter’s personality to protect her and give her a helping hand at the critical moment.

“In the beginning, I found Lin Chuan.

“At that time, Lin Chuan was truly an outstanding young man. His relationship with Siya was also very good, including his cultivation potential, ability to do things, image, and demeanor. They were all top-notch choices.

“I thought highly of Lin Chuan in the past. I nurtured him wholeheartedly and even treated him like half of my son.

“It was a pity that I was at the critical stage of my career at that time, too. I was dealing with my siblings, uncles, and shareholders of Sky Pillar Corporation, as well as the competition between Sky Pillar Corporation and Universe Corporation. It was impossible for me to devote 100% of my time, energy, and resources to Lin Chuan.

“In the end, as you know, Lin Chuan really disappointed me.

“I thought that he and Siya were complementary personalities. I didn’t expect that they were the same kind of people. The so-called toughness, straightforwardness, and carefreeness were all fakes. Deep down, Lin Chuan was actually a villain who felt extremely inferior because of his background.

“The inferiority made it impossible for him to accept my kindness and deal with his relationship with Siya properly.

“His inferiority also made him more and more extreme. Eventually, he fell into the demonic path.

“How hateful! That b*stard!

“It is not easy for my most beloved daughter to open the layers of thick armor and show her most fragile heart to others.

“However, for the first time, and perhaps the only time in her life, Lin Chuan chose to stab her deeply in her heart!

“After learning the whole process, I was utterly shocked and furious.

“Although you had already retreated from the outbreak of the Red Radiance Jade tide without any damage on the surface.

“But I was very worried that Lin Chuan’s betrayal and hurt would completely distort Siya’s heart and turn her into a lifeless machine from then on.

“Thankfully, none of that happened.

“Up until now, although her personality and style have been criticized, in my opinion, Siya is normal and healthy enough.

“All of this is thanks to you, Meng Chao. It was you who accompanied Siya and helped her walk out of the shadow of Lin Chuan’s betrayal.”

Hearing this, Meng Chao coughed violently.

He felt that if he did not say anything more, he would not be able to avoid it.

“Director Lu, oh, Uncle Lu, I think you’ve misunderstood...”

Meng Chao was not a fool. Of course, he could read Lu Fanghui's burning eyes.

However, in this matter, Lu Fanghui was indeed like many people who had misunderstood his relationship with Lu Siya.

From the perspective of an ordinary man, with Lu Siya's figure, appearance, family background, and the power she wielded, she would not only save him twenty years of effort, but also save him a lifetime of effort.

Meng Chao believed that even if Sister Ya, who was a Queen Bee, was ten times more powerful, there would still be men who were willing to throw themselves into the fire, right?

Moreover, to be fair, no matter what Lu Siya did to others, whether she often took things by force or played tricks, she was still very loyal to Meng Chao.

For example, during the battle in the Lair, if Lu Siya hadn't rushed into the Lair alone and trusted him unconditionally, he wouldn't have been able to escape unscathed.

However, apart from gratitude and trust, Meng Chao really did not have any other thoughts.

On one hand, with the Kindling in his body, all he wanted to do was to reverse the future and save Dragon City.

He spent his days tempering his muscles and bones, cultivating his soul, and exploring the mysteries of the ancient era. He was not very concerned about the marriage problems of the older men and women in the city.

On the other hand, having traveled all over the other world in his previous life, he had once experienced endless spring of all sorts and forms.

His tastes had long been heavily modified by various saintesses, demonesses, catwomen, leopard women, dragon women, female elves, and female giants of the Other World.

Meng Chao wondered in his heart if he was a person who had broken away from low-level tastes and only wanted to worry about the country and the people and save the country.

However, those, uh, bizarre, soul-stirring, magnificent, and even shocking scenes appeared from the depths of his brain every night and drilled into his dreams. They could not be blocked.

It made him feel bored every day when he woke up. He did not feel the slightest bit moved when he saw pure-blooded human girls. He only wanted to talk to them about life, ideals, and how to contribute to Dragon City.

He was also very helpless. There was nothing he could do!

That's right. Recently, he had been in deep communication with the brain. He could often read information about the ancient war. He could even transform into an ancient beast and crazily reproduce in one, no, a hundred forms that were completely different from human-like creatures. He had unlocked countless incredible methods and postures to experience the splendor of life and the mystery of gene transmission.

He was used to all this and could never go back.

Therefore, Meng Chao was not targeting Lu Siya.

Instead, he was not very interested in all the girls in 100% human form.

Having experienced the coming of the end of the world, he did not think that the marriage between two people had to be based on feelings.

But if even the most primitive desire was lacking, why force it?

“I didn’t misunderstand anything.”

Lu Fanghui’s expression did not change as he calmly said, “Do you think I’m talking about feelings with you? Although Dragon City has won the Monster War, we haven’t completely escaped from the Other World and still face the predicament of the apocalypse.

“In the cruel apocalypse, there’s no room for feelings.

“What I’m talking about with you is a deal, a deal that benefits everyone.”

“A deal?”

Meng Chao frowned deeply.

“That’s right. A three-win deal.”

Lu Fanghui’s gaze sharpened again as he stared at Meng Chao. “I think the reason you’re hesitating to join the Heavenly Dragon Club is that you’re worried you won’t have much say in the face of the nine big families after you join. You’ll be easily marginalized and even be used as a weapon, right?”

“I don’t know what other people think. Maybe some of the big families have the intention of turning you into a puppet, but as long as we make this deal, at least I, Siya, and the entire Lu family will definitely stand on your side.

“You can rest assured and use the resources on my side. I can also increase our investment in you and Superstar Resource.

“For Siya, this deal will allow her to gain the absolute support of ‘Dragon City’s youngest Heaven Realm expert and blood medal winner.’ It will also help her win the hearts of the ordinary citizens and the descendants of the poor families that you represent.

“You know, in the past, although the two of you often appeared in teams and promoted together, because of Siya’s background in the nine noble families, many ordinary citizens and descendants of the poor families still held a certain prejudice against her. They didn’t dare to sincerely accept her.

“It goes without saying that the deal will help Siya compete for the vast market represented by the children of the humble class and the ordinary citizens.

“As for me, if the deal can be carried out, I will have the help of two super rookies with unlimited potential. It will be immeasurably beneficial, if not decisive, for me to raise my status in the Lu family and expand my power in Sky Pillar Corporation.

“Look, everybody can benefit from the deal. It means that the deal is real, sincere, and stable. In this world, people often betray their feelings, but very few betray their own interests, don’t you think?”

Meng Chao was dumbfounded.

He finally understood where Sister Ya’s ambitious, unscrupulous, and enterprising personality came from!

Thinking about it carefully, in his previous life, due to the explosion of the Red Radiance Jade vein and the death of Lu Siya, Lu Fanghui had not been able to hold on to his position as the chief executive of Sky Pillar Minerals for a long time. Since he had not been able to become the head of the Lu family, he had naturally not been an outstanding figure who would leave a deep impression on Meng Chao and influence Dragon City.

Today’s conversation made Meng Chao realize that the real Lu Fanghui was much more powerful than he was in his previous life.

In his previous life, he had just lacked some luck and opportunities.

In this life, through Meng Chao’s changes, he did not lack anything!

Lu Fanghui misunderstood Meng Chao’s expression.

“It seems that you’re really a person who values relationships. That’s true, at your age, who wouldn’t yearn for a pure and beautiful relationship?”

Lu Fanghui said, “But that’s not a problem at all. It doesn’t matter whatsoever—once this transaction is successful and we’ve gotten what we want, you can talk to whoever you want about a pure and beautiful relationship. It doesn’t matter even if it’s a hundred times. Do you think that Siya and I would care about such trivial matters?”

Meng Chao stared at him with his mouth agape.

He had goosebumps all over his body.

He was stunned for a long time before he said, “Is this... all right?”

Chapter 867: Lu Fanghui’s Realm

“Yes, this is very normal, or even necessary.”

Lu Fanghui solemnly said, “Meng Chao, you and I are both experts, and this is a cruel foreign world. The moral concepts of the Other World’s warriors and the moral concepts of Earth’s ordinary people are completely different.

“Ever since we transmigrated, Dragon City has always been a lone force in the Other World. What is the most important thing for the continuation of Dragon City’s civilization? Population! High-quality population, especially! Continuing the genes of the strong, inheriting the strength of the strong, and having a population with strong cultivation potential at birth!

“There are merely few dozen millions of people, the vast majority of whom are ordinary folk who have no strength at all. On Monster Mountain Range, it is barely enough. However, if it were to spread to the entire Other World, it would be like throwing salt into the sea. There would be no waves at all.

“Therefore, other than training and fighting, the most important mission for us, the experts, is to sow the seeds of our lives and reproduce as many powerful descendants as possible, so as to constantly improve the population quality and the average combat ability of the Dragon City civilization.

“If you still adhere to the Earth era, the so-called idea of monogamy and growing old together will certainly satisfy your pedantic and ridiculous moral obsession, but it will be the biggest irresponsibility for the future of the Dragon City civilization!

“Therefore, in the circle of the strong, such things are very normal, reasonable, and even glorious — all for the sake of civilization!

“Believe me, Siya has seen a lot of such things when she was young. She is an ambitious person. As long as you can guarantee that the transaction will be carried out normally, she will not mind such a trivial matter.”

The information contained in these words was too much and too stimulating.

Meng Chao’s brain could not process it for a moment. His forehead was burning hot.

“Uncle Lu, can you open the car window? I want to breathe some fresh air,” Meng Chao said.

Lu Fanghui’s eyes rolled. A few cursors on the LCD dashboard flickered. Meng Chao’s car window slowly rolled down. The sound of torrential rain and rolling thunder outside immediately rushed into the car like a flash flood.

However, no matter how loud the wind, rain, and thunder were, they could not suppress Meng Chao’s pounding heart.

He reached his hand out of the window, caught a handful of cold rain, and wiped his face hard.

“Uncle Lu, about this...”

Meng Chao regained his composure and asked, “Is it your idea or sister Ya’s idea? Does she know that you’re looking for me?”

“Not yet. You can tell her for me.”

Lu Fanghui smiled and said, “Don’t worry. A father knows his daughter like his father. Although Siya doesn’t like to be manipulated by others, I think she’ll agree to the deal if it’s with you.”

“Why?”

Meng Chao couldn’t help but touch his face.

Although he didn’t like to be manipulated by others, and he had a very pure and innocent friendship with sister Ya.

However, when a man heard such a compliment that wasn't really a compliment, he couldn't help but smile.

Among the third generation of the nine noble families, there were many talented people.

With Lu Fanghui's passion for power, he probably had designs on Lu Siya in the past and tried to strengthen himself in this way.

However, as far as Meng Chao knew, Sister Ya had never paid any attention to these 'talented people'.

What right did he have to be above the third generation of all the nine great clans?

After thinking about it, Meng Chao could only attribute the answer to his appearance, demeanor, and charisma.

"Because you don't have a background and your family background is simple enough, Si ya should have the confidence to take the initiative in this transaction and eat you and your superstar resources," Lu Fanghui said calmly.

"..."

Meng Chao took a deep breath and said, "Uncle Lu, thank you for your kind offer... I feel that my brain is in a mess right now and it's not suitable for me to think about complicated and long-term issues. I need to calm down and think about it carefully

"Of course, this deal is even more important than joining the Heavenly Dragon Club. You should consider it carefully and don't force yourself."

Lu Fanghui unlocked the car door with his eyes and said sincerely, "I'll say it again. No matter what choice you make, I hope to be your friend and not your enemy."

He raised his glass to Meng Chao again.

Then, he signaled with his eyes that there was another glass filled with fine wine on Meng Chao's left.

Meng Chao pondered for a moment, raised his glass, and lightly clinked it with Lu Fanghui's.

But he did not drink a single drop of the liquor before he put the glass back to its original place.

He got out of the SUV and walked into the torrential rain.

Although the raindrops that contained spiritual energy hit his body, it was as painful as a fist-sized hailstone.

Meng Chao, on the other hand, felt somewhat relaxed and comfortable.

Through the window that had not been closed yet, Meng Chao looked at Lu Fanghui, who was sitting on the soft leather seat of the apocalyptic beast with his eyes closed and enjoying the fine wine. He suddenly felt an indescribable emotion.

"Uncle Lu -"

He blurted out, "I will seriously think about what you said just now. I believe that I can slowly figure out many problems on my own, but there is one problem that I don't think I can figure out no matter what. Can you point me in the right direction?"

Lu Fanghui opened his eyes, put down the glass of wine, and leaned over to Meng Chao. "Go ahead."

"You just said that a ball of fire is still burning deep inside your chest. Everything you've done, including your crazy training, your relentless harvesting of resources, and your efforts to climb to the top... All for our home, for the civilization of Dragon City?" Meng Chao said loudly.

"That's right."

Lu Fanghui nodded and replied solemnly, "I have never forgotten the mission of the Crimson Heart Society for a day. Everything I've done has been for the purpose of obtaining sufficient strength. One day, I will be able to carry out the mission of the Crimson Heart Society and build a better civilization and home

"You also said that you have dozens of children. In the circle of the experts, such things are quite normal, because other than training and fighting, the most important duty of the experts is to sow the seeds of life and pass on their genes and strength to the greatest extent, thereby strengthening the entire civilization."

"So," Meng Chao said, "It is also not for yourself, but for your home and civilization?"

"Yes."

Lu Fanghui replied frankly, "This is all for... your homeland and civilization."

"By the way, you also said that you had some partners who shared the same interests. They were all the high-level disciples of the nine major gangs who witnessed the rise and fall of the Crimson Heart Society together. Stimulated, these partners trained crazily and grew stronger like you. Gradually, they became the core management of the nine major corporations today."

Meng Chao said, "Can I understand that they are doing the same as you, and everything they do is for the sake of their homeland and civilization?"

Lu Fanghui hesitated for 0.1 seconds.

"Sure."

He said, "We are all doing it for our homeland and civilization. We are all doing it in a different way to revive the 'Pure Heart Association.' We also welcome new blood like you who have ideals, ambitions, and the most important thing is that they have the ability to join us."

"Alright. I am willing to believe you, Uncle Lu. I believe that you are telling the truth. You and your like-minded companions, whether it is seizing cultivation resources by force, striving for power, or climbing up the ladder, or even having multiple wives and dozens of children — all of these are not for yourself, but for our homeland and civilization."

Meng Chao wiped the cold rain off his burning face again. He took a deep breath and asked loudly, "What do you think?" "But I really can't figure it out. You live in a mansion with a swimming pool on

several floors, drive a luxury car with soft leather seats for apocalyptic beasts, and raise monsters as pets. The daily food of these pets is the biggest and freshest piece of monster meat. They eat better than many of the lower-class citizens in the nest city. Is this also for the sake of the homeland and civilization?"

The question made Lu Fanghui smile.

It was as if Meng Chao's question was not too tricky, but too simple, too naive, and too childish.

"Yes. It is also for our homeland and civilization."

Lu Fanghui was like an amiable father, lecturing his sons and nephews, "Firstly, training is a very difficult and dangerous thing. The higher one's level is, the deeper the corrosion of spiritual energy on our brains will be, and the more likely it is for us to be mentally deranged or even collapse.

"Therefore, for high-level extraordinary individuals, it is crucial to maintain a happy mood.

"Living in luxurious mansions, driving luxury cars, enjoying all kinds of luxury goods, and raising pets in ways that ordinary people can not imagine are all ways for us to maintain a happy mood.

"Naturally, you can say that, when many citizens can only survive on synthetic food and earthworm meat, it is extravagant and wasteful, or even immoral, to feed pets with the flesh of fresh monsters.

"However, it is still the same. We are the strong, and this is another world. Do not impose the moral ideals of the ordinary people of the Earth era on us.

"After a day of hard training and intense battles, dragging back home exhausted and even covered in wounds, seeing a pleasing pet beast devour the freshest and most plump flesh, that kind of spiritual comfort, even if it can only reduce the risk of our qi deviation by 1% and increase our recovery speed by 1% , it is worth it, right?

"Secondly, this world is very complicated. Not all the experts are like me and my companions, wholeheartedly fighting for their homeland and civilization. To these experts, logic does not make sense, only strength.

"What is strength? Of course, cultivation level and battle achievements are one aspect, but these things may not be seen by others every day. In that case, luxury cars, mansions, and all kinds of luxury goods are the most direct manifestation of strength.

"I'm not a person who likes to enjoy myself. Compared to the extravagant desires I have now, I still yearn for the simple, simple, pure, and clean life in the Crimson Heart Society. However, I can't control myself in the world of martial arts. If I were the same as I was in the past, who would take me seriously? Who would believe that I could control the entire 'Atlas Mining'? Who would be at ease to sign a huge contract worth billions or even tens of billions of dollars with me?

"Yes, I can use other ways to show my strength, but after climbing to my position, for the sake of my home and civilization, I would like to break into two every second. Why Waste My Energy and time?

"Thirdly, the life of the nine great clans will certainly arouse the envy and even jealousy of many disciples of the humble class. Jealousy is right. Like anger, jealousy can be transformed into the

strongest motivation, which will promote the disciples of the humble class to cultivate crazily and evolve continuously. They will follow our example and climb up step by step!

“In this world, there are very few saints who have no desires or desires. The vast majority of ordinary people don’t have a deep understanding of such a grand concept as ‘home and civilization’. Of course, everyone can sing the high-profile ‘cultivation for the rise of Dragon City’, but let’s say from the bottom of our hearts that whether ‘cultivation for the rise of dragon city’ is more attractive to an ordinary young man who has nothing to fight and struggle, or whether ‘cultivation for luxury cars and mansions, prosperity and wealth’ is more attractive to ordinary people?

“And ‘as long as you train hard, you will be able to enjoy luxury cars and mansions,’ Where did the deep-rooted concept come from? Of course, it is up to us to set an example for the citizens!

“Meng Chao, think carefully. Is this the case? Recall again. Why did you train in the first place

Chapter 868: The Answer Was Right in Front of Him

Meng Chao thought carefully.

When he was in high school before his rebirth, he had the greatest motivation for cultivation. He also seemed to be living in Dragon City No. 1, a luxurious neighborhood, like “Soul Breaking Saber” Luo Wu.

“It looks like you have already understood.”

Lu Fanghui continued, “When we were in the Red Heart Society, we found it very strange. Although countless citizens had heard of the Red Heart Society’s benefits and swarmed to us, there were very few experts who were willing to join us in comparison to the ordinary citizens.

“Even though we went to our good friends who had fought side by side in the past and tried to reason with them, they still did not care.

“It took us a long time to figure it out. In the end, there were only a few idealists in the world who did not seek fame and fortune.. Most of them were short-sighted realists who focused on material comforts.

“It’s impossible to achieve anything by relying on a small number of people to fight alone.

“Meng Chao, since your debut, everything you’ve done has shown that you’re a real idealist. But even if you can fight, even if your state is high and you have three heads and six arms, can you save Dragon City by yourself?

“Most people may be touched by your spirit, but they are more stimulated and tempted by fame and fortune.

“How to motivate these people and stimulate their potential to the maximum so that they are willing to fight for their homeland and civilization? This is a very profound knowledge. It is not something that can be solved by singing high-sounding slogans such as ‘The blood of the strong should flow for the weak, and the extraordinary are the sabers of the civilization of mankind!’”

Meng Chao fell into deep thought.

He vaguely felt that there was something wrong with Lu Fanghui's logic, but for a moment, he could not figure out what the problem was.

"Think about it carefully, Meng Chao. You are good at everything, except for the biggest problem. You came from a humble family. You are too petty."

Lu Fanghui said, "Don't misunderstand. A hero doesn't ask where he came from. I will never discriminate against a humble family's disciple, especially a humble family's disciple like you who started from nothing and soared to the sky.

"However, you and your kind—the members of Broken Star Club, Blue Home, Battle God Palace, most of the people of the Red Dragon Army, and the representatives of the Home Party—are all the same. You like to stick to the minutiae and use the outdated morals of the ordinary people of the Earth era to restrain the powerhouses of other worlds to unleash their greatest power, but you will never learn to stand on a higher level and think in a bigger picture to think about the future of our brand-new civilization, which is completely different from the Earth's civilization.

"Although I don't want to be so presumptuous, I still want to say that if you can't change your way of thinking, no matter how powerful you are, you will never become a true expert, let alone carry out your ideas in the new world in the future!"

That was all Lu Fanghui could say.

The SUV roared like a giant iron beast that had awakened in the night.

The high-level crystals that ordinary extraordinary humans could not bear to consume during their training had a violent reaction in the hand-polished crystal engine. They burned in a way that was a hundred times more intense than that of a steel furnace, emitting a mystic light composed of hundreds of colors.

The mystic light split the rain and lightning, guiding the off-road vehicle away from the dust.

Meng Chao frowned deeply as he watched the tail lights of the off-road vehicle gradually blend into the darkness.

He stood there for a long time before he strode away in the opposite direction of the SUV without looking back.

Meng Chao stepped on Mist Mountain.

Right now, the highest peak in the Hidden Mist Domain was also enveloped by torrential rain and rolling thunder.

The lightning shattered the rocks on the mountain, and the torrential rain broke the soil. In the crisscrossing mountain creeks, the mud and rocks gathered into surging tides. Like hundreds of ferocious dragons, they swooped down from the sky.

Even though Meng Chao had expanded the spirit magnetic field of the five-star Heaven Realm to the maximum, the spirit ripples that were as thin as cicada wings but visible to the naked eye formed around his body as a “precaution.”

Faced with the head-on impact of the debris flow, his heart was still beating fast, and he was drenched in cold sweat.

Not to mention that the debris flow carried hundreds of tons of rocks and towering trees that were more than eight meters in diameter and smashed at him.

He could only open his eyes wide and use all his skills to capture the flow, speed, and direction of each wave of debris flow. He locked onto all the rocks and trees in the debris flow and turned all of them into mysterious and complicated data and formulas. He instantly calculated the best route to move and leap in the debris flow.

He went against the flow of the debris flow and kept marching toward the peak.

Even with the protection of spirit energy, his internal organs were still faintly aching from the violent waves.

His skin was gradually covered with the branches of spiritual plants that contained metal elements, as well as tiny wounds torn by rock fragments.

But the fatigue and pain on his body could instead give his scalding brain a precious breath.

No matter how violent, chaotic, or complicated the debris flow was,

At least it was much simpler and clearer than the future of Dragon City’s civilization.

Meng Chao rushed up the mountainside in one breath.

He finally crossed the most turbulent part of the mudslide.

It was a platform protruding outward like a cliff.

It was a good time to stop and rest, let the scalding spirit vein cool down a little, and then climb to the top in one go.

Meng Chao found traces of Lu Siya’s cultivation there.

Three huge gullies with a diameter of more than five meters appeared on the originally flat ground.

It was like the strange claws of an ancient giant beast, leaving deep claw marks on Mist Mountain.

Meng Chao knew that Lu Siya had used the resonance of the vitality magnetic field and the planet’s magnetic field to dig out a large amount of rocks from the ground, condensing them into rock snakes or rock dragons, leaving behind the excavation site.

At first glance, it looked like there were really three dragon dragons lurking underground, listening to Lu Siya’s call and rising up from the ground.

The gully led all the way to the mountain top.

They could find Lu Siya by following them.

Meng Chao was not in a hurry.

The scenery here was excellent. Standing on the edge of the platform, he could see the entire sinkhole from afar.

He could also see the Red Dragon River and the Raging Tiger River, the two great rivers colliding, meeting, splitting, and merging.

They could see it even more clearly than the low-lying mound that he and Long Feijun had just been drinking.

Meng Chao could not help but fall into a daze when he saw the two rivers intertwining.

The Red Dragon River and Raging Tiger River were like two giant beasts that were at loggerheads. They both wanted to eat each other in one bite, but neither could do anything to the other.

Plus, their collision and merging together had shaped the topography of the entire Monster Mountain Range and the home of Dragon City's civilization.

At the moment, were the major forces in Dragon City not full of cooperation and competition like the Red Dragon River and the Raging Tiger River?

Meng Chao used to think that the agreements signed during the Deity Realm Conference could restore the peace and unity of the major forces.

But now, he found that he had thought too simply.

Perhaps, the major forces could reach an agreement on specific issues, such as the ownership of several mineral veins, the amount of several procurement contracts, and the budget of some projects.

However, Long Feijun and Lu Fanghui, the two core forces of different factions, made it clear to Meng Chao that they would not give in to the differences in ideology.

How could they make Dragon City completely calm down.

It was like stopping the surging Red Dragon River and Raging Tiger River. How could it be possible?

Behind the Red Dragon River and Raging Tiger River, the undulating Monster Mountain Range was like an ancient giant beast that was deep in the ground, its back covered with the bones of the halberd.

It was unknown whether it was an illusion or not.

It could also be because of the sudden flood.

Meng Chao seemed to see that the back of the "ancient beast" moved slightly.

This filled Meng Chao's heart with unease.

He suddenly felt that he had overlooked something.

From the very beginning, he and everyone else had been indulging in the glory of “sweeping victory in the Monster War” and the competition for the monster civilization’s heritage. They had overlooked a fatal problem.

It was like a tiny grain of sand sandwiched between his toes. In the beginning, no one took it seriously, and no one could even sense its existence.

It was not until they were exhausted after trekking through mountains and rivers, and more obstacles appeared on the road ahead, causing their toes to bleed and even fester, that they realized the destruction of the grains.

“What on Earth... have I neglected?”

Meng Chao habitually rubbed his temples and eyeballs, which contained heavenly flame.

Above his vision, the golden heavenly flame turned into a row of shining messages:

[The current total progress of the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities is 99% . All the Supernatural Entities have appeared. The final answer is right before your eyes.]

In the past half a month, this message had flashed in front of his eyes many times.

It was as if it was urging him to complete the mission as soon as possible.

However, for the last and most critical 1%, Meng Chao was still confused, and he had no idea where to start.

“Since all the Supernatural Entities have appeared, why is it that the puzzle hasn’t been solved yet?”

“And the answer is right in front of my eyes. Why can’t I see the answer in front of my eyes?”

This matter was like a thorn, stabbing him so hard that he tossed and turned, unable to sleep all night.

Of course, Meng Chao did not want the Dragon City civilization to enter an even more intense war between worlds that was ten times grander with such a hidden danger.

But even though he racked his brain, he still could not think of a way to solve the mystery.

“Why don’t I communicate with Sister Ya and see if the Abnormal Beast Research Department has any latest intelligence?”

Meng Chao made up his mind and continued to climb the mountain.

The closer he got to the top of the mountain, the more he could hear the thunderous sounds of the wind and thunder.

No, it was more terrifying than the sound of the wind, rain, and thunder. It was the sound of friction between the vitality magnetic field and planet magnetic field.

The ground was covered with the traces left by Lu Siya’s cultivation.

The rocks had been hollowed out, leaving holes and gullies.

The towering tree had been cut in half by her rock dragons and the rock snakes.

It was deliberately shattered and then shot out at the speed of sound, deeply embedded in the rocks and the trees.

There was also smoke and dust that rose slowly under the influence of spirit energy and could not even be quenched by the rainstorm.

The shocking scene did not look like normal training. It was as if one, no, seven or eight ferocious beasts had just wreaked havoc there.

“Ever since Sister Ya broke into the six-star Heaven Realm, her combat style has become increasingly brutal!” Meng Chao clicked his tongue secretly.

Chapter 869: The Increasingly Ferocious Sister Ya

There were only a hundred meters left from the peak.

Meanwhile, a slightly sunken mountain was positioned between the two peaks.

Due to the unique spirit magnetic environment, a large amount of spirit energy was gathered there. Colorful illusory mist rolled about all year round. It was a unique cultivation place.

Lu Siya was cultivating there.

She stood in the air, under the wind, rain, and lightning.

Her long hair fluttered without any air current, like black flames.

Around her were six rock dragons that were dozens of meters long. They were delicate and lifelike, baring their fangs and brandishing their claws as if they were alive.

As Lu Siya’s ten fingers moved at a frequency of more than a hundred times per second, they formed many mysterious and complicated seals.

The six rock dragons were divided into two groups, entangling, attacking, and devouring each other.

Seeing that the “crystal dragons” were surrounded by dazzling electric arcs and emitting hot flames of spirit energy between their shiny scales, they looked as powerful as ancient ferocious beasts.

Then, Meng Chao thought of the clumsy and ugly earth dragons that Lu Siya had summoned the first time. They looked like giant earthworms.

Meng Chao could not help but sigh. Sister Ya’s improvement was too fast.

“Sister Ya seems to be much stronger than when she stopped the chaotic battle in the canteen a few days ago.

“She has made a breakthrough in just a few days?

“Sister Ya is indeed a talented cultivation genius. She is a rare monster and a determined cultivation maniac. In the whole Dragon City, she is only second to me!”

At this moment...

Boom! Crack!

Accompanied by a deafening explosion.

More than a hundred lightning bolts pierced through the sky at the same time.

They fell down like fireworks.

They landed right on top of Lu Siya's head.

Meng Chao widened his eyes.

Lu Siya, on the other hand, was overjoyed. She stretched her vitality magnetic field to its limit and flew toward the upside-down lightning bolts.

Endless lightning bolts surrounded her body. Guided by her vitality magnetic field, not only did they not hurt her flesh and blood, but they also condensed into a gorgeous armor around her body.

Even the six crystal dragons seemed to have been filled with energy by the lightning.

They stopped killing each other and lunged at Lu Siya at the same time.

"D*mn it!" Lu Siya roared in excitement.

Outside of the spirit armor, the lightning condensed into the shape of a halberd and a spike and lunged at the six crystal dragons, too.

One punch was enough to shatter the head of one of the crystal dragons.

With another kick, the second crystal dragon was cut in half from the middle.

The third crystal dragon bit her shoulder, but she acted as if nothing had happened. She opened the crystal dragon's bloody mouth and tore the entire head in half.

The seemingly ferocious crystal dragon seemed to have turned into a weak earthworm in front of its creator.

It could not fight back at all.

"Seriously?"

Meng Chao was dumbstruck. "Isn't Sister Ya best at telekinesis, material transformation, and elemental manipulation? When did her close combat ability become so terrifying?"

Meng Chao's impression of Lu Siya had always been that of someone who could manipulate rock to fight.

Even after she had broken through the six-star Spirit Armor Realm and mastered some fighting skills...

She had not been so... fierce when she had sparred with Meng Chao.

Tonight, he did not know whether there was some kind of catalyst at the middle of the night...

Or the storm, the thunder and lightning, but they stimulated Lu Siya to show her realest side.

Meng Chao always felt that the current Lu Siya and the past were not quite the same.

To be more precise, after she cultivated in seclusion for ten days to half a month and broke through the realm of six-star Spirit Armor, she had a different temperament from before.

Perhaps, this was the intimidating power of the peak of Heaven Realm?

Meng Chao thought so.

However, his pupils constricted to the limit in an instant.

The six crystal dragons were all shattered by Lu Siya. The pieces shot toward Meng Chao like a storm of bullets.

It turned out that Lu Siya had discovered his existence.

She was annoyed that he had come too late. Without saying anything, she entered the sparring mode.

Meng Chao's body instantly turned into a cloud of mist, as if he had disappeared in the dense rain, causing all the rock fragments to miss.

However, the rock fragments that had missed condensed into six crystal dragons again, and they surrounded a particularly blurry rain curtain.

By the time Meng Chao blew up the heads of the six crystal dragons, all six of them were fully gone.

Lu Siya, who was surrounded by electric arcs, had already cut into his middle path. Her eyes were facing his eyes, and the tip of her nose was facing the tip of his nose.

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

The two of them collided for hundreds of rounds in an instant.

Even though Meng Chao had activated the 300% increase in his combat ability with Divine Nine Dragon Seals, he still felt that his body had become a breakwater made of copper and iron.

Lu Siya was still feeling particularly excited and fierce tonight.

It was like a tsunami that would never stop. It was destroying his 'breakwater,' which was on the verge of collapse, in the most violent way.

"Yes, Sister Ya?"

The two of them hit the ground from mid-air.

They even broke through a mountain rock that was more than ten meters deep and blew up the entire rock.

The more Lu Siya fought, the braver she became. She could not stop at all.

Meng Chao could not help but grunt.

It was definitely not because he could not beat Lu Siya.

It was definitely not that.

The main reason was that he found Lu Siya's face flushed, and her eyes were starting to look a little strange.

"Stop it. Stop fighting. I'm not in a good state today. My head hurts. It's true, I've had too much to drink. My head hurts a lot!" Meng Chao kept screaming.

Lu Siya, on the other hand, seemed to have fallen into a state where she would not survive if she did not go crazy. She looked like a predator.

Her chest was heaving, and she panted for a long time before she gradually calmed down.

With a snap of her fingers, the electric arcs around her and the crystal dragons around her were reduced to the most basic elements.

"Awesome!"

She stretched her limbs and showed a satisfied expression. "I knew it. I must have gained something by coming to the highest peak in the Hidden Mist Domain to cultivate on such a stormy night.

"As I expected, I waited for you for a long time, but you didn't come. Looking at the vast land around me and the undulating mountains like the backs of monsters, I suddenly felt... touched. I decided to train by myself first.

"I don't know whether it's the weather or the venue, but tonight's cultivation feels very refreshing. Many profound martial arts that I previously couldn't figure out, as well as the spirit and magnetic principles that have been bothering me for many days, have all been easily solved.

"I have a very crazy idea. Maybe I will reach the Deity Realm soon and become the youngest Deity Realm fighter in Dragon City!

"Meng Chao, why do you have such a strange look? Aren't you happy that I'm improving so fast?"

"Ugh..."

Meng Chao looked at Lu Siya, whose cheeks were still red, and then at his limbs, which had been swollen because of the fierce battle, and said, "Of course I'm happy. But, Sister Ya, your improvement speed is a bit terrifying!"

"Hmph! You're only allowed to use three years to turn from an ordinary person into a five-star Heaven Realm warrior, but I'm not allowed to use three years to advance from Heaven Realm to Deity Realm?"

Lu Siya rolled her eyes as if she had discovered a huge secret. The corners of her lips curled up slightly as she smiled and said, "It can't be that your pride has been hurt because you can't beat me, right?"

"You're right. Although my cultivation level has always been higher than yours in the past, I've switched from the support system to the combat system. Moreover, I mainly fight by means of elemental manipulation and telekinesis. My melee combat ability has always been inferior to yours. Every time I control a rock, you have to be in front of me to protect me!

"I didn't expect my melee combat ability to become even stronger than yours. You must be very disappointed, hahahaha!"

“Who said that my melee combat ability is inferior to yours!” Meng Chao slammed the table and stood up.

“Okay, then let’s fight for another 300 rounds!” Lu Siya’s eyes lit up.

“I’ve been drinking. My head hurts and I’m not in a good state.” Meng Chao felt a little guilty.

“I can smell it. It’s the Red Dragon Army’s secret brew, Fiery Blood Dragon Scale wine. You’ve been getting closer and closer to Long Feijun and the other young military officers recently.”

The corners of Lu Siya’s mouth twitched in dissatisfaction. Suddenly, she raised her eyebrows again.

She moved closer and sniffed Meng Chao’s face and body carefully.

“Huh? There’s also the smell of our Lu family’s secret brew, Rose Blood, and the leathery smell of the Apocalyptic Beast, Demon Mountain. My dad just got a particularly flashy off-road vehicle, which is wrapped in the soft leather of Demon Mountain.”

Lu Siya said in bewilderment, “Right now, the Deity Realm Conference has ended, and Sky Pillar Corporation has reaped a lot of benefits. My dad must have been eager to come to the Hidden Mist Domain to inspect the spoils of war that the Lu family could get. It is not strange that he showed up here, but why did he come to you in the middle of the night instead of exploring the mother lodes of crystals?”

“Judging from the smell of Rose Blood and Demon Mountain on your body, you must have stayed in his SUV for a long time. No wonder you were so late. What were you talking about with my dad so enthusiastically?”

“Ugh...”

Meng Chao found another reason to refuse the deal with the Lu father and daughter.

As a “sensitive” person, Sister Ya’s ability to draw out the truth through clues was too terrifying and stressful.

He scratched his ears and cheeks, not knowing what to say.

Lu Siya narrowed her eyes and stared at his face for a long time before she suddenly sneered.

“It can’t be, right? My father, that old fox, is trying to seek help out of desperation. He actually has his sights set on the two of us?”

Meng Chao was shocked.

“Sister Ya, if it weren’t for the hill that was destroyed by you like a hurricane, I would have suspected that you were hiding under the back seat and eavesdropping on my conversation with Uncle Lu!”

“What?” Meng Chao was in disbelief. “How do you know everything?”

“Nonsense. Do you think that I’ve been the team leader of Team Nine for nothing?”

“Of course.” Lu Siya curled her lips. “If it was for business, such as the cooperation between Sky Pillar Minerals and Superstar Resource, my father wouldn’t have been in such a hurry to find you in the middle of the night. He could have waited for the day and discussed it with the three of us.

“You don’t have to look so guilty, either. It’s as if I’m going to eat you up in one bite. I can’t find the words to say it.

“If it’s not official business, then it must be a private matter. The problem is, what private matters can my father and you talk about for a long time? It’s nothing more than that!

“Hmph, I knew he would do something like that.

“Meng Chao, you must be careful. Don’t look at my father’s honest and sincere face. He has a nickname in the circle called ‘Gray Fox.’ It’s not the ‘hui[1]’ in his name. It’s because he’s as cunning as a fox, and he’s the best at playing the ‘win-win’ card and eating the biggest piece of cake without others realizing it!”

Chapter 870: Sister Ya’s Plans

“Uh...”

Meng Chao was stunned when he heard that. He could not help but say, “Isn’t it inappropriate to comment on your father like that? Uncle Lu praised you like a flower in front of me, saying that you’re his most beloved daughter!”

“He’s also my most beloved father, but feelings are feelings, and transactions are transactions. I can’t let him sell me and give him the money!”

Lu Siya leaned close to Meng Chao’s ear and explained the inside story to him. “You don’t know this, but ever since my grandfather returned to the Lus after he was seriously injured in the fierce battle with the monster mastermind, he has been cultivating in seclusion. His personal doctor and training assistant are also evasive. They won’t tell us how his injuries are and whether or not he can recover to his peak condition.

“Right now, rumors are spreading all over the Lu family. Many people feel that the old man may not be able to make it. In fact, my grandfather has been fighting desperately for Dragon City for more than half a century and has reached the stage where he is old and weak. He should have considered the issue of the successor a long time ago. The decisive battle with the monster mastermind is just the last straw that breaks the camel’s back.

“It’s not just my grandfather. Almost all the first-generation supreme experts of the nine great cultivation families are facing the problem of insufficient strength and power transfer.

“As a result, the second-generation powerhouses like my father cannot help but be restless.

“To take over the power of the cultivation families and mega corporations from the first-generation supreme experts, one must not only gain the approval of their parents, but also convince their peers and juniors. This requires strength and achievements.

“The most important thing about the so-called strength part is, of course, one’s combat ability. However, it is not something that can be broken through at will, especially for my father. In the

beginning, he walked the path of a crystal specialist and a mining engineer. Later, he transformed into a manager of a business and dealt with business affairs. How much time did he have to focus on his training when he was busy with all kinds of affairs?

“Due to his worldly affairs, he was destined to not be a true expert even with the support of astronomical resources.

“Therefore, many second-generation cultivators turned their attention to ‘external help.’

“If my grandfather was seriously injured and decided to retire and hand over the family’s power, my father would indeed be the first successor. However, that doesn’t mean that there are no other challengers in the Lu family or that he’ll be able to deal with external competitors after he officially takes over the Lu family.

“Therefore, in order to successfully ascend to the Lu family’s supreme throne, my father is now doing everything he can to find external help to expand his strength.

“To achieve his goal, he wishes he could use all of my brothers and sisters for a business marriage. How could he let go of a rising supernova like you, Meng Chao?”

“I see...”

Meng Chao suddenly understood.

No wonder Lu Fanghui was particularly friendly tonight. He had acted like a gold-medal salesman and had been really too active for someone in the position of a mega corporation CEO.

“Also, once you are won over, it won’t be as simple as adding a strong and absolutely loyal foreign aid. This matter itself will be a great merit.”

Lu Siya continued, “Many people in the circle know that the whole Dragon City has been in an uproar over the recent upgrade or repeal of the Land Enclosure Decree. and behind this temporary decree, there are two even more powerful forces that have repeatedly pulled and rubbed against each other for the future of Dragon City.

“Meng Chao, your background, status, and attitude are obviously not very supportive of the continued implementation of the Land Enclosure Decree.

“In a sense, you have even become a banner in the hearts of the humble majority. Your words and actions will affect the tens of millions of humble-class disciples in Dragon City, especially the choice of the best among them.

“At this juncture, if my father can rope you in, it will be a bloodless solution to a big problem for the nine families. Even my grandfather will appreciate my father’s ability to do things.”

“Sister Ya, I understand everything after your analysis.”

Meng Chao said, “However, your analysis is too thorough. Don’t you think it’s a little...”

‘Helpful to outsiders?’

“There’s nothing I can do. I don’t want to betray my father either, but this gray fox has really underestimated you.”

Lu Siya spread out her hands and said rather helplessly, “Although you seem to be muddle-headed and indifferent about a lot of things, no one knows better than me that this is just your disguise. Or rather, this is something that you don’t think is worthy of being sought after by others. It’s ‘trivial’ like wealth. You just need to use your brain and think carefully.

“Once you encounter something that you’re interested in or that you think is of paramount importance, your intuition and analytical ability will be even scarier than a ‘sensitive’ person like me.

“Therefore, even if I don’t tell you the truth, you will figure out my father’s motives and plans before long.

“If you figure out such things yourself, you will inevitably feel that you have been deceived and taken advantage of. You will resent my father and even me. We are a golden partnership. I don’t want to affect our friendship and business just because of such a small matter. Why didn’t you just tell me everything? Maybe you won’t be so angry because of me?”

“I wasn’t angry in the first place.”

Meng Chao thought for a moment and said, “Uncle Lu’s words were too sudden. I wasn’t mentally prepared, so I didn’t have the time to be angry.”

“That’s good.”

Lu Siya heaved a sigh of relief and continued, “My father was indeed too much in this matter. Our friendship is completely between the two of us. Even if we really want to use this friendship for the sake of greater benefits, the beneficiaries should be us. After I benefit, I’m willing to give a portion of the cake to my father. This is my filial piety, but if I don’t give it to him, he can’t cheat or snatch it from me. Tell me, isn’t that reasonable?”

Meng Chao frowned slightly and said, “Although it sounds weird, it does make sense.”

“So, you can rest assured. If you don’t want to do it, we’ll stop here.”

Lu Siya said, “Tomorrow morning... No, I’ll go down the mountain later and find my father. I’ll make it clear to him that he won’t bother you anymore because he wants to ascend the supreme throne of the Lu family and Sky Pillar Corporation. Of course, that’s not a bad thing. We can also support him, but the bottom line is that it can’t affect our cooperation and relationship, right?”

“Yes... Wait, that doesn’t seem right.”

Meng Chao keenly grasped the hidden meaning behind Lu Siya’s words. He narrowed his eyes and stared at her. “Sister Ya, you said earlier, ‘If I’m not willing, we’ll stop here.’ But shouldn’t both parties be willing to push this matter forward? Don’t tell me that as long as I’m willing, I don’t have to consider your feelings?”

“Me?”

Lu Siya calmly said, “I’m fine with it!”

“Eh?”

Meng Chao was shocked. He subconsciously crossed his arms and stuttered, “S-Sister Ya, about that, although there are subtle differences in each other’s backgrounds, standpoints, and pursuits, I’ve always treated you as my best friend...”

“Nonsense, of course we’re friends. What else could we be?”

Lu Siya hooked her finger. “Come here and listen to my explanation. I won’t eat you.”

Of course, Meng Chao did not go over.

“Don’t tell me that you think that I’m a vulgar and stupid woman who gets emotional?”

Lu Siya frowned and said, “If you really think that way, it’s the greatest insult to me.

“Besides, the last time I got emotional, I was tricked into the depths of Raging Waves Mountain Range. I used my talent as a clairvoyant to find the Red Radiance Jade lode, which led me to fight against Universe Corporation’s prospecting team. In the end, I even conspired with a female monster to kill.

“Do you think that after everything that I’ve experienced, it’s still possible for me to devote even the slightest bit of my feelings to anyone?”

“It doesn’t look like I have either.”

Meng Chao said, “Then why did you...”

“Because although my father has his purpose, the deal itself is indeed not a big deal. On the contrary, it has a lot of benefits for you and me.”

“In fact, I’ve been thinking about it carefully during this period of time,” said Lu Siya. “I’ve been weighing the pros and cons repeatedly, calculating the costs and benefits.

“I thought that after the rainy season in the Hidden Mist Domain ended, our intensive training would come to an end. After we returned to Dragon City, I would treat you to two movies and a meal. I would tell you about it slowly once I was mentally prepared.

“I didn’t expect my dad to be so impatient and want to lead this deal.

“In that case, why don’t we just say it out loud? We’ll be on the same side, and then we’ll go bargain with my dad. That way, we can take the initiative.”

“Wait, Sister Ya, I might have drunk too much Fiery Blood Dragon Scale wine. Why do I feel dizzy?”

Meng Chao said, “Slow down. Let me take it in slowly.”

“It’s actually very simple.”

Lu Siya spoke as if nothing had happened, “A person like you, who started from nothing and made all decisions on your own, cannot understand the difficulties of being born in a noble family. You enjoy the cultivation resources and business opportunities provided by the family, but the price you have to pay is that you have to become the family’s chess piece and war chariot. Business marriages are all basic operations. Before I have the power to break with the Lu family, it’s impossible for me to live recklessly.

“As long as I can bring sufficient returns, I don’t object to a family marriage.

“The problem is that my situation is rather special.

“I don’t know which b*stard first came up with the nickname, ‘Queen Bee.’ In short, I’m now known in the circle as a strong, overbearing, and ambitious person.

“In the business world, that isn’t a bad thing.

“However, the elites of the third generation of the nine great families, who are also strong, overbearing, and ambitious, are not willing to choose such a marriage partner.

“Plus, those who can tolerate my style are a bunch of unambitious weaklings. It’s not that I don’t like them, but I can’t even be bothered to look at them.

“Besides, if I choose to marry into the nine great families, it’s inevitable that I’ll become a buffer zone between our two great families. I’ll be involved in all kinds of conflicts and be bullied on both sides.

“You know that I like to fight with people in the open and in the dark, but what I want is to fight stronger enemies on a broader stage, instead of wasting my talent and strength on trivial matters.

“In a word, I, Lu Siya, hope that my life will be a grand competition drama. It doesn’t matter if I lose or win, but it shouldn’t be a boring court battle drama. Meng Chao, do you understand?”